



## Would They Ever Learn That Lesson?

The disciples didn't know what to do. A "dog" was bothering them. They didn't know how to get rid of it. They couldn't throw stones at this "dog," because it was not a real dog. It was a woman.

Yes, it was a woman, but she was not one of God's chosen people. She was a Gentile. Jews considered Gentiles as lower-class people, no better than dogs.

This Gentile woman wanted help. She begged the disciples to help her, but they did not pity her. After all, she was a Gentile. They only wanted her to stop bothering them. Finally they went to Jesus and said, "Send her away. She keeps crying after us."

But Jesus did not send the woman away. Here was His chance to teach the disciples a lesson about the kingdom. He had been trying to teach them this lesson for a long time. But they were such slow learners. Would they ever learn that lesson?

\* \* \*

As Jesus and His disciples tramped

over the hills of Galilee, He had taught about the kingdom. The disciples wanted a kingdom. And they wanted Jesus to be their king. But the kingdom they had in mind was different from the one Jesus talked about.

Many kingdoms surrounded the land of Israel. Egypt had a king for the Egyptians. Syria had a king for the Syrians. Rome had a king for the Romans. And the Jews wanted a king and a kingdom for the Jews in the land of Israel.

However, the Master never talked about a kingdom for the Jews in the land of Israel. He told stories about the kingdom of Heaven.

He taught that *anyone* can belong to that kingdom, because God loves Gentiles as well as He loves Jews. That was the lesson the disciples found so hard to learn.

\* \* \*

That day Jesus and the disciples had left the land of Israel and gone northwest to a town on the shore of

the Great Sea. He had gone into the house of a friend, hoping for peace and quiet. But somehow word got out that Jesus, the Healer from the land of Israel, had come to town.

\* \* \*

That was exciting news to one woman. She had a daughter with an evil spirit. She had heard Jesus had power to cast out devils.

Of course, the Man was a Jew. Likely He used His power mainly for Jews. And she knew Jews despised

Gentiles. But if she begged Him, maybe, just maybe, He would cast out the demon even though she was a Gentile. For the sake of her daughter, she must at least ask Him. So she had gone, and the Man's disciples treated her scornfully, just as Jews usually treated Gentiles. But that did not discourage her.

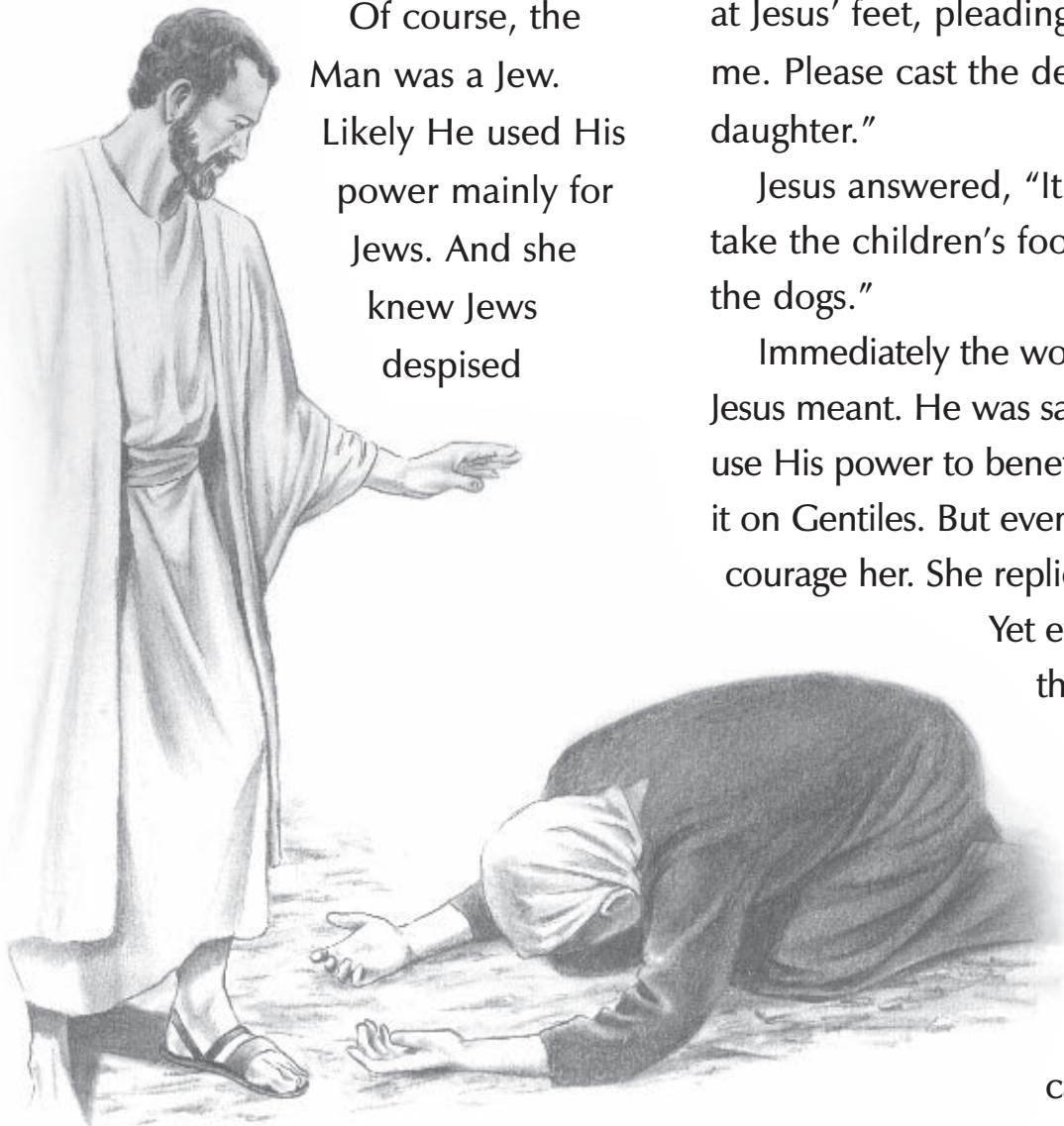
She went into the house and knelt at Jesus' feet, pleading, "Lord, help me. Please cast the devil out of my daughter."

Jesus answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and give it to the dogs."

Immediately the woman knew what Jesus meant. He was saying He should use His power to benefit Jews, not waste it on Gentiles. But even that did not discourage her. She replied, "True, Lord.

Yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from the Master's table."

This mother saw Jesus as her Master. She was willing to be called a dog if He would give her a



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few crumbs of His power and cast the demon out of her daughter.

Her answer pleased Jesus. He did not really look down on the woman. He loved her as much as He loved His disciples. He was only testing her faith. Now He knew she truly believed in Him. He said, "Woman, you have great faith. Whatever you wish shall be done. The demon has left your daughter."

And that is exactly what happened. When the woman got home the demon was gone. Her daughter lay in bed peacefully sleeping.

Did the disciples learn what Jesus had tried to teach them that day? Yes, they saw that He had helped the Gentile woman. But they did not want to believe that "dogs" would have a part in the kingdom. Would they ever learn that lesson?

## From the Story

**Underline the best answer.**

1. How did most Jews, including Jesus' disciples, feel about Gentiles?

That they weren't really people, but like dogs instead.

That they should have a part in the kingdom of God.

That they were lower class and no better than dogs.

2. Why was the woman excited that Jesus was in town?

She hoped Jesus could heal her daughter.

She knew Jesus' disciples would have pity and help her.

She wanted to be a part of the kingdom of Heaven.

**Who said it? Write *J* for *Jesus*, *D* for the *disciples*, or *W* for the *woman*.**

3. \_\_\_\_ "Send her away. She keeps crying after us."

4. \_\_\_\_ "It is not fair to take the children's food and give it to the dogs."

5. \_\_\_\_ “True, yet even the dogs eat crumbs from the Master’s table.”
6. \_\_\_\_ “Woman, you have great faith. Whatever you wish shall be done.”

## That’s Our God

Circle *T* for *true* or *F* for *false*.

7. **T F** The woman called Jesus her Master.
8. **T F** Jesus helped only Jewish people.
9. **T F** Jesus tested the woman’s faith and found that she believed.
10. **T F** Jesus wants both Jews and Gentiles in His kingdom.

## For Me Today

11. **Underline the lesson you can learn from Jesus and the Gentile woman.**

Be sure your family has all they want before you give to the needy.  
Show God’s love to everyone; He wants them to be in His kingdom.  
Show God’s love to everyone so they will stop bothering you.

## How They Lived

Check the groups of people who had earthly kings.

- |                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 12. ____ Syrians | 14. ____ Egyptians |
| 13. ____ Jews    | 15. ____ Romans    |

## We Remember

Circle the number and letter of the correct answer.

16. Jesus told His disciples that He would . . .  
**2-C** be killed.            **4-B** be a king in Jerusalem.

17. Did the disciples believe Jesus would be killed?  
**6-E** yes                    **3-C** no

18. Jesus said, "I came . . .  
**1-D** to be served."  
**1-C** to serve."

19. Jesus came to . . .  
**6-C** give His life for the  
      sins of the world.  
**5-D** do miracles.

20. Jesus told the disciples that  
they would . . .  
**5-C** suffer.  
**4-B** sit beside Him.

21. The disciples argued about . . .  
**2-D** who was the greatest.  
**3-E** who worked the hardest.

22. Who asked to sit beside Jesus  
when He was king?  
**6-A** Andrew and Peter  
**4-C** James and John

23. Jesus said to be great in God's kingdom is . . .  
**2-B** to be humble like a child.    **3-B** to be an important person.

To finish the puzzle, color in the squares on the puzzle, using the circled answers in 16-23.

	A	B	C	D	E
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					